



Don't it always seem to go, that you don't know what you've got till it's gone? - "Big Yellow Taxi"
- □ *Joni Mitchell* -

The NCAA has yet to write the final chapter of Jim Tressel's story at Ohio State, but it's not too soon to look back on the last ten years and acknowledge that he had a damn good run...and we, a great ride. If nothing else, the first half of the 2011 football season should leave us with a better appreciation of just how remarkable that run was. And what better way to do that than to recall some of the best games we witnessed during Tressel's decade on the sidelines in Columbus.

This column is less about the man than about the OSU football games he coached, but a few numbers really should be recounted here. A record at Ohio State of 106-22 (.828).....37-15 against Top 25 opponents.... 66-14 in the Big Ten....6-4 in bowl games....9-1 vs. Michigan**. He won one national championship, seven Big Ten titles, including three outright championships, and at least a share of the title in his last six consecutive seasons on the job. (** *all victory numbers are before 2010 wins were vacated*)

Tressel coached 80 Big Ten games and lost just 14 of them, half of those losses coming in the only two of his ten seasons (2001, 2004) in which he failed to win at least 10 games. In the six seasons from 2005-2010 his Buckeyes never lost more than one Big Ten game. He won conservative...you could say at times he won boring...but mostly, he just won.



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